GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4863
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2002
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATIONS
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has participated in International Maritime Organisations held recently to discuss maritime security and counter-terrorist issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decisions taken thereon;

(c) whether any changes have been suggested in existing regulation in the safety at sea convention (Solas);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Intersessional meeting of the Maritime Safety Committee working group on maritime security reviewed the nature and procedures under the existing instruments of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to prevent acts of terrorism and other unlawful acts against ships, passengers/crews on board ships, port personnel, ports and port facilities, with a view to ascertaining the need to update these instruments. Proposals on maritime security issues circulated by various countries including USA, France, Australia, Spain, Argentina etc. were discussed. The Working Group made various recommendations which are required to be deliberated further for a decision.

(c)&(d) The Working Group recommended modifications of the existing Convention on Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) to incorporate requirement for a ship security officer, port security plans, port vulnerability assessment and Automatic Identification System (AIS) implementation schedule. Besides, it was also recommended that a new regulation may be brought in SOLAS, in case it was not found possible to bring in the seafarers identity document requirement through a Protocol to ILO Convention 108.

(e) Indian delegation would participate in the discussions in various committees of IMO on these issues and project India`s views taking into account India`s security concerns and the interests of Indian seafarers.